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CHAL 1198
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12 OCT 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
SUBJECT: Summary of Pending CHALICE Activity

1. This memorandum is for your information only.
2. Your separate requirements have been received involving the use or deployment of CHALICE assets during the next 45-60 days. These are:

- a. One time photographic coverage of Cuba.
- b. Tactical photographic coverage of Cuba during the strike phase of JMARC.

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- d. Formation of a CHALICE Detachment

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3. All four of the above tasks can be accomplished by efficient use of our available CHALICE assets. Accomplishment is planned in the following manner:

a. One-time Cuba Coverage: This will be done by staging the Edwards Unit (Detachment C) with two aircraft to Del Rio. A Headquarters Assistance Team, recently returned from Detachment C, has declared the Unit operationally capable of performing this mission. The one time coverage of Cuba will involve three to five sorties depending on weather. Del Rio was selected as the staging base on the basis of the U-2 being common to that base and the available U-2 support, equipment.

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and facilities. The dark blue paint is being removed from the aircraft to be used and except when on a mission will carry [redacted] depending on the outcome of your meeting with [redacted]. These will be removed just prior to launch. The risk of a U-2 landing in Cuba is considered quite remote due to its glide range of 200 nautical miles or more. The pilot will be instructed to ditch if an emergency near Cuba is unavoidable. The stated purpose of the Detachment's presence will be as [redacted]. However, attempts will be made to reduce direct association between our personnel and those of the base. This operation will take place between 13 and 25 October.

Contrails are a possibility most of the time in that area. At operational altitudes contrails, when they do prevail, are usually light and non-persistent, making them in most cases unobservable from the ground. Instructions to the pilots will be to keep a watch through his mirror. If contrails are observed to be heavy or persistent, he will be given the option to change altitude. If this is not successful, his instructions will be to abort.

b. Tactical Cuba Coverage: This will also be done by Detachment G. Del Rio was also selected for this operation for the additional reasons of the availability of on-site installed processing facilities as well as its relative remoteness from the target country. Eglin was considered but rejected on the basis of the greater speculation that would ensue, especially during intense activity in Cuba, as well as the major effort required to install on-site processing equipment. As the U-2 can easily cover the potential strike targets (for damage assessment) from Del Rio and since earlier launch time required is not critical, the only penalty involved in using Del Rio over, for example, Eglin is one hour and twenty minutes flying time. Agency communications connected to H Street and Miami operations center [redacted] will be installed for operational control as well as for sending CXic type reports. PIC is to furnish PTs for this purpose at Del Rio. Latest indication from JMWARC is that this will start sometime between 13 November and 1 December.

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c. [] As the capability of Detachment G will be completely absorbed in a. and b. above as well as, to some degree, assisting in the formation of the [] Detachment B will perform this mission. At the time we accepted this requirement, we were unaware of a. and b. above. Additionally, since B has been inactive for so long, this will provide a means of providing activity for that Unit. Only personnel and required parts and ground support equipment will be withdrawn from B. The two J-57's (eventually to be transferred to FOG) will be used. They will also have the paint removed. As this operation is solely in support of [] [] [] [] The flight operations will take place between 1 and 15 November and will involve between 15 and 20 sorties.

d. [] Upon return of the [] survey team on approximately 25 October an indication of facilities rehabilitation, modification, or construction will be known. This Detachment will have two J-75's and [] personnel of all categories. Assuming that no major time consuming project is required, it is planned to have the advance administration and materiel cadre in place between 15 and 30 November. One J-75 aircraft will be delivered as the advance party indicates its readiness to accept the aircraft (approximately 1 December). The second aircraft will follow as the first aircraft becomes flyable (approximately 1 January). It may be necessary to use Air Force personnel from Detachments B, G, or Headquarters on TDY to get the Detachment started and until permanent personnel become available. Statements as to cover, operational arrangements, etc., are deferred pending the return of the survey team.

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, OPD-DD/P

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DPD/COPS, (19 Oct 1969)

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